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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

BULLETIN OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

R Recommended

Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.

M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.

NR Not recommended

SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.

SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

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Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 24 September, 1970 Number 1

New Titles for Children and Young People

Adoff, Arnold. Malcolm X; illus. by John Wilson. T. Y. Crowell, 1970. 41p. $3.75.

Ad 3-5

A simply written biography, awkwardly illustrated, candid about the seamier years in the life of Malcolm X, but with a eulogistic note at the close. "Today Malcolm X is loved every place that black people live." The author describes Earl Little, the biographee's father, a man who spoke without fear; the young Malcolm who went from a detention home (after his father's death and his mother's commitment to an institution) to a life of petty crime, then to serious crime; the older Malcolm whose surly prison behavior changed when he began to read books from the prison library and who was converted to Islam; the man who became a religious leader and a model family man, who moved from the Black Muslim position of separation to a conviction that black and white could work together, the man who was assassinated at the age of thirty-nine. The style is adequate, marred occasionally by abrupt treatment: "The state welfare workers were often at the house. They thought the children should go live with other families. They called Mrs. Little 'crazy.' Finally she was sent to the State Hospital at Kalamazoo."

Agle, Nan (Hayden). Maple Street; illus. by Leonora E. Prince. Seabury Press, 1970. 126p. $4.50.

R 3-5

Margaret is nine, black, and disconsolate because her best friend has just moved away from Maple Street. The neighborhood is black, but a poor white family from Virginia moves in next door and it is clear from the start that Ellie May, although she is Margaret's age, will have nothing to do with Negroes. But she is forced to. Her father is absent, her mother hospitalized, and Ellie May seethes while black neighbors generously care for the small children left alone. Margaret has been gathering signatures for a playground petition, her vision of green grass and flowering trees exploded by the reality: flat concrete. So Maple Street does not become beautiful, and only a wary friendship is achieved between Margaret and Ellie May. What is beautiful are the people of Maple Street: so real, so honestly drawn. They are middle and lower class, many of those who help care for the white children aware of the Virginia family's bitter prejudice; if they can't love their neighbor, it never occurs to them not to help. The discussions about this in Margaret's home are candid and it is this mirroring of ordinary problems that distinguishes the book, also enjoyable for the vigorous dialogue.

Alexander, Martha. Bobo's Dream; written and illus. by Martha Alexander. Dial, 1970. 30p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.96 net.

R 3-6 yrs

Another story in pictures only, the illustrations affectionate and amusing, the plot easy to follow and the theme an important one for children conscious of their smallness. A boy recovers from a large dog the bone stolen from his own small dachshund, and is licked excitedly by his loving pet, Bobo, who then naps and dreams: his boy is playing with friends and is teased by bigger boys; Bobo, grown gigantic, frightens off the toughs. Waking, Bobo sees the big dog again but this time he barks—and walks off casually as the larger dog looks—well, hangdog is the best word. The boy is brown and sweet, the dog entertaining, the child-animal theme and the bolstering of size concept both appealing.

Aliki. My Visit to the Dinosaurs; written and illus. by Aliki. T. Y. Crowell, 1969. 33p. (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Books) Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $4.25 net.

R 2-3

Information about dinosaurs is framed, but lightly, by a child's description of his visit to museum exhibits; the illustrations are good, the human figures in pictures of the exhibit a contrast to the size of the skeletons, and the pictures of individual dinosaurs are detailed enough for identification. The text gives a few facts about each and gives some background information about dinosaur fossils and paleontological research. The author writes as simply as is commensurate with the use of accurate terminology; no writing-down, no padding. Another fine book in a good beginning science series.

Almedingen, E. M. Fanny (Frances Hermione de Poltoratsky—1850-1916); illus. by Ian Ribbons. Farrar, 1970. 226p. $3.95.

R 8-

A lovely book of reminiscences, based on the sketches and family papers of the author, who presents the childhood of her Aunt Fanny as if written by Frances de Poltoratsky herself. Tenderly Fanny describes the golden days of her childhood on a huge Russian estate; her father was rich, scholarly, gentle, and loving, and her English mother was in complete agreement with her husband: the two little girls must be brought up as simply as possible. Naive and trusting, Serge Poltoratsky lost all his wealth due to the machinations of a crafty steward, and the suddenly-impoverished family fled to Paris. The style is graceful, the setting fascinating, and the book permeated with family affection and an abiding relish for the peace and beauty of country life.

Ardizzone, Edward. The Wrong Side of the Bed. Doubleday, 1970. 30p. illus. $3.50.

R 3-6 yrs

A story in pictures. A small, sullen figure appears at the breakfast table and is firmly led back to the bathroom and scrubbed. His manners at table are atrocious, he pulls his little sister's hair and is ordered out. Hammering away his hostility, he is scolded by his father for making too much noise. He goes outdoors; nobody will play with him. He falls down. Torn and filthy, he solaces himself with images (in balloons) of a wounded warrior and his weeping mother. He finds a coin, buys a nosegay, goes home and offers his mother the flowers. Last picture: tired child cuddled lovingly on mother's lap. The illustrations are engaging,

the story one that should have the appeal of familiarity, the ending satisfying.

Asimov, Isaac. Great Ideas of Science; illus. by Lee Ames. Houghton, 1969. 140p. $4.

R 6-9 Some of the high moments in science history are described by Asimov in his usual vigorous and lucid style, the focus of the book being on the contribution each theory or discovery has made to the body of knowledge. The book also shows clearly how such a body is built on the work of the past and how the scientific method is applied. From Thales, who thought that all things were water (wrong, but his great idea was that there was a natural order in the universe) to theories of cosmic evolution, men have had hypotheses about natural selection, atomic theory, conservation of matter, etc. Here, in brief chapters, are descriptions of some of the research projects that validated those hypotheses. An index is appended.

Baker, Betty. The Pig War; illus. by Robert Lopshire. Harper, 1969. 64p. (I Can Read Books) Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. $2.57 net.

Ad 2-3 Based on a minor event in American-British relations, a pleasant but placid bit of history for beginning readers. On a small island off the United States coast, there was a British fort; in 1859, some American settlers came to the island. Each group thought the land belonged to them, and the demonstrations of this began mildly: a flag, and a rival flag; a drum, and a rival fiddle; a disturbed pig getting into a vegetable garden. Finally each faction called on its military, and the ensuing stalemate was a time in which each side was protected but each was also being called on to furnish food. Finally one of the farmers and a British captain called a truce and made peace. The ending may be historically correct, but it is a let-down.

Benchley, Nathaniel. The Several Tricks of Edgar Dolphin; illus. by Mamoru Funai. Harper, 1970. 64p. (I Can Read Books) Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. $2.57 net.

R 1-2 Young Edgar's mother had taught him how to leap straight up in the air, and all by himself he knew how to catch things in his mouth and throw them. Chasing a ship one day, Edgar was captured by some divers and put in a tank. The humorous illustrations have the same note of fun as does the story, which has a satisfying ending: Edgar, knowing that the men on the ship will catch a ball if he throws it, manages to exchange the ball for a hose and fills his own tank full enough to leap back into the ocean. The writing is simple enough to read aloud to younger children.

Bernheim, Marc. African Success Story; The Ivory Coast; by Marc and Evelyne Bernheim. Harcourt, 1970. 96p. illus. Trade ed. $4.95; Library ed. $4.98 net.

R 6-9 While some of its neighbors, eager for independence, broke with France before they were economically ready to stand alone (and have suffered since), the Ivory Coast, under the leadership of President Houphouet-Boigny has achieved remarkable prosperity and growth. The first part of the crisp and lucid book gives the historical background,

dwelling in detail on the years between the end of World War II and 1960, the year in which the Ivory Coast gained independence; the second section describes several citizens and their lives, giving a good cross-section of contemporary life and the assimilation of new ideas and practices into an old and dignified culture. An index is appended.

Bertol, Roland, ad. Sundiata; The Epic of the Lion King; retold by Roland Bertol; illus. by Gregorio Prestopino. T. Y. Crowell, 1970. 81p. $3.95.

R 4-7 The story of one of the early African empires; as are other great legends, the story of Sundiata is that of good triumphing over evil; here the tale is presented as though it were told by a storyteller of today, so that the oral tradition in which the legend grew is evident in the sweep and cadence of the writing style. Mute and ugly, the crippled child whose coming had been prophesied did not speak or talk until he became a boy king. Not until he had come back from years of exile did Sundiata lead his people to victory over the tyrannical Sumanguru and found the great empire of Mali. The adaptation is based on material found during research being done for an African film.

Brady, Irene. America's Horses and Ponies; written and illus. by Irene Brady. Houghton, 1969. 202p. $7.95.

R 5- Although the title seems misleading (wild equines like the zebra and tarpan are included in a special section) this is a fine and full compilation of material, well-organized within each section and written in an informal and articulate style, with odd and colorful bits of information added to the expectable facts: the history, description, characteristics, and outstanding points of conformation. There are sections on mules and related equines, and background material about prehistoric horses as well as sections on color breeds, light horses, draft horses, and ponies. The illustration is impeccable: a precise scale drawing of each breed. A bibliography is appended.

Brenner, Barbara. Faces; with photographs by George Ancona. Dutton, 1970. 46p. $4.95.

R 1-2 Big print, spacious format, and large, clear photographs make this an excellent book for the beginning independent reader, and one that can be read aloud to preschool children because of the simplicity of the style and the concepts. The text considers the fact that no two faces are alike but points out they all have the same features; it discusses the sense organs, and it makes, tangentially, a positive statement on brotherhood. The photographs are varied and lively.

Bronson, Wilfrid Swancourt. Dogs; Best Breeds for Young People; written and illus. by Wilfrid Swancourt Bronson. Harcourt, 1969. 96p. $3.95.

R 4-7 There are many good books on choosing and training a dog, but this has additional appeal because of the humorous style, the forthright discussion of minor problems of dogs and owners, and the sensible discussion of safety measures, courtesy, preparation for ownership, and responsibilities as well as the major problems of selection and care. Actually, there is little on the topic of best breeds; there are several picture-charts (small, medium, big, and giant dogs) of "Congenial K-9's

for Young Folks." The illustrations are crude but lively in comic valentine style, and a divided bibliography is appended.

Brown, Michael. Shackleton's Epic Voyage; illus. by Raymond Briggs. Coward-McCann, 1969. 36p. $3.29.

R 4-6 First published in England, the true and exciting story of Shackleton's trip to South Georgia Island after his ship had foundered in the Antarctic seas. With twenty-seven men marooned on desolate Elephant Island, it was a choice between certain death and possible rescue—if a boat could reach the whaling settlement on the island of South Georgia and bring help. This is a detailed account of the grim voyage, through icy seas and mountainous waves, in a small boat manned by Shackleton and five other members of the expedition. The writing is direct and sober, with a minimum of dialogue, all of the color coming from the drama of the facts. The illustrations are powerful, even the repetitious pictures of the wild seas contributing to the sense of endless space and ever-looming danger.

Buck, David. The Small Adventures of Dog; written and illus. by David Buck. Watts, 1969. 76p. $2.95.

Ad 4-6 Being city children, the Curtis youngsters had never seen a pig, and they naturally called the stuffed leather animal "Dog." Discarded, Dog found that he could talk to other animals and toys, that he could fly, and that he could change into any shape or color if he thought hard enough. So off Dog went, determined to use his powers to do good deeds. The writing style is light and humorous and the character of Dog appealing, although he has none of Paddington's charm. Here the adventures involve no direct confrontation with human beings, so that there is little interplay between real and fanciful, those dialogues between two people affected by Dog's magic (a policeman who reports a stranded bus and is embarrassed when his superior sees only a toy bus) tending to be rather forced.

Cushman, Jerome. Tom B. and the Joyful Noise; illus. by Cal Massey. Westminster, 1970. 110p. $4.25.

Ad 3-5 Tom B. is, the jacket states, "a cocky little black boy who uses his shoeshine kit as a passport to explore New Orleans." He wanders into the French Quarter, hears and is completely smitten by jazz. Grandmother, with whom Tom B. lives, says jazz is sinful, but the boy hangs around jazz musicians, follows a jazz parade, takes his first trumpet lesson; he runs away from home and is reunited with his grandmother in the hospital, where he has been brought after a near-drowning. Grandmother is converted by a conversation with Tom B.'s trumpet-playing idol, and the boy looks forward joyfully to the future. An interesting city, musical appeal, and a sympathetic protagonist are the positive aspects of the book; the laborious incorporation of local color and jazz history are weaknesses, as is the unremitting focus on one theme.

Dobrin, Arnold. Gerbils; written and illus. by Arnold Dobrin. Lothrop, 1970. 63p. Trade ed. $3.75; Library ed. $3.56 net.

R 3-5 In 1954 two dozen gerbils were imported from Asia for medical research purposes and ten years later were introduced as pets. Clean, odorless, easy to care for, and lively, gerbils have become one of the

most popular of small pets. This simply written book gives advice on their care and feeding, equipment, and breeding and makes suggestions for scientific projects—not experiments, but observation and recording. There are many suggestions about handling the animals safely (for the protection of the owner and the pet) and for the gerbil's comfort. Simply written, comprehensive, and useful. An index is appended.

Eimerl, Sarel. Gulls. Simon and Schuster, 1969. 64p. illus. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.79 net.

M 3-4 Although the considerable amount of information given is adequate and accurate, this is a book so flatly written that it has less appeal than other books on the subject. The first section is general, very simply written and intended for younger readers than the second section, which discusses instinctive behavior, mating, patterns of brooding, care of chicks, and defense of territory. Since the two sections cover different material, the book does not wholly serve either audience. The photographic illustrations are good, a few being of birds other than gulls; an index is appended.

Emberley, Ed. Ed Emberley's Drawing Book of Animals; written and illus. by Ed Emberley. Little, 1970. 29p. $2.95.

Ad 2-4 Each page is divided horizontally into frieze-like strips that start with a simple shape to which are added other shapes and forms, the component parts being shown separately as well as in the accruing picture. With a circle, for example, one can, bit by bit, make a standing pig or a sitting pig; with a half-circle one can make a procupine or a turtle. Not a wholly new idea, but done in a gay style and encouraging to the young artist. Some of the directions and visual concepts are rather complicated for the intended audience.

Epple, Anne Orth. The Beginning Knowledge Book of Fossils; illus. by Raul Mina Mora. Crowell-Collier, 1969. 30p. $3.95.

Ad 3-6 A good, although not intensive coverage of the subject, with an introduction that gives general background about fossil formation, the lines of print broken by small drawings that are not always supplementary. The body of the text is neatly compartmentalized: separate topics such as corals, brachiopods, ferns, starfish, mammoths, earliest birds, trilobites, et cetera are described on single pages. The illustrations are adequate; there is neither index nor table of contents. Endpapers contain a chart (highly compressed, with man and caveman at about the same level) of life-forms through the eras.

Feelings, Muriel L. Zamani Goes to Market; illus. by Tom Feelings. Seabury, 1970. 40p. $3.95.

Ad K-3 A quiet book, both in tone of the story and in the modest plot, is appropriately echoed by softly executed and simply composed illustrations. Zamani is excited and pround to be old enough to go to market with his father and older brothers; he enjoys the sights and is delighted when father gives him money to spend. Torn between a yearning for his first grown-up garment and a gift for his mother, Zamani chooses the necklace. He is delighted, later, to find that father has bought him the very kanzu he wanted, but it is mother's joy that gives him the greater plea-

sure. Set in West Africa, a contemporary story that gives a warm picture of family life.

Feinstein, Joe. A Silly Little Kid; illus. by John Paul Richards. Steck-Vaughn, 1969. 32p. $2.95.

M K-2 Larry didn't want that silly little kid Henry tagging around after him all the time. Henry, who thought Larry was big and wonderful, tagged. Everything Henry suggested they do, Larry refused. Silly, he thought, to sail boats in the gutter; boring to watch two old men playing checkers. And why go into the fire station? At the end of the day, Henry (who finally went off on his own) saw Larry sitting on the library steps, doing nothing. "You should have been with me," he began, and told Larry about all the things he had done. Then, a parting shot, "I always wanted to be as old and as big as you are. But I don't anymore. I don't want to grow up and be like you and do nothing." Larry, the story concludes, sat on the steps outside feeling like a silly little kid. The illustrations are pedestrian, the story slow-paced and obtrusive in its delivery of message, but the message is valid and the story tautly structured if blandly written. The book can serve as a springboard for discussion of both curiosity and the tagalong relationship.

Felton, Harold W. Mumbet; The Story of Elizabeth Freeman; illus. by Donn Albright. Dodd, 1970. 63p. $3.75.

R 4-6 Elizabeth Freeman has a unique position in black history. Uneducated, intelligent, and firm in her purpose, she insisted on trying in the Massachusetts courts the principle she had heard was embodied in the new constitution of the commonwealth. Thus, in 1781, a black slave won her freedom by due process of law. The appeal of the dramatic event is enhanced by the suspense of the barriers erected by Mumbet's owner and by the tenacity and shrewdness of the protagonist.

Fujikawa, Gyo, illus. A Child's Book of Poems; illus. by Gyo Fujikawa. Grosset, 1969. 119p. $3.99.

Ad 3-7 yrs An oversize book, profusely illustrated with attractive but not unusual pictures save for some of the double-page spreads in color. The pages are quite crowded, the poems good, standard fare; authors' names or sources are attached when known. The selections are not grouped or arranged. Author, title, and first line indexes are appended.

Fukuda, Hanako. Wind in My Hand; The Story of Issa, Japanese Haiku Poet; Haiku tr. by Hanako Fukuda; illus. by Lydia Cooley. Golden Gate, 1970. 63p. Trade ed. $4.95; Library ed. $4.79 net.

Ad 4-6 A partial biography of the great haiku poet, adequately illustrated, the often-flowery text interspersed with Fukuda's translations of Issa's haiku. The book does give an impression of the simplicity and perception that distinguish Issa's work, but there is little to indicate the tragic background that adds poignancy to his story. The translation is not as impressive as it is in Of This World, by Lewis, or in the Issa collection A Few Flies and I (both based on the Blyth and Yuasa translations, both reviewed in the December, 1969 issue) and the book's primary strength is in its coverage, for younger readers, of Issa's childhood.

Galdone, Paul, ad. Androcles and the Lion; ad. and illus. by Paul Galdone. McGraw-Hill, 1970. 35p. Trade ed. $4.95; Library ed. $4.72 net.

Ad K-3 A picture-book version of the story of the Roman slave whose kindness to a lion was repaid by the saving of his own life is told very simply. Some of the humor of the Shavian version is reflected in the illustrations, but the book has less humor than does Daugherty's Andy and the Lion; it is, however, adequately written and should be useful for storytelling and reading aloud as a straight version of the original legend.

Garfield, Leon. The Drummer Boy; illus. by Antony Maitland. Pantheon Books, 1970. 186p. $4.50.

Ad 6-9 Charlie Samson is a handsome lad, idealistic and patriotic, who is sick at heart when the English lose a battle. He returns to England with a small party of stragglers, haunted by the ghost of a soldier whose love letter he carries; and when Charlie meets the beautiful Sophia Lawrence, the boy is instantly smitten and vows to save her from the ghost—for Sophia is frail, and the ghost wants her to join him. There is less in this story of the swashbuckling humor and lusty Dickensian action than in most of Garfield's books, although there is some. There is also less impact than in Mister Corbett's Ghost, perhaps because the eerie visits and the hints of morbidity are recurrent. The climax, however, is a stunning surprise, and the style and characterization have great vitality.

Garfield, Leon. The Boy and the Monkey; illus. by Trevor Ridley. Watts, 1970. 48p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $2.63 net.

M 4-6 A story set in eighteenth century London, first published in England in 1969. Written as one of a series of books intended for readers 7-9 years old, the story seems unsuitable for them because of the difficulty of the language and some of the concepts. It also imputes intention (at the level of human thought) to an animal. Tim does not know why his monkey, Pistol, is so sad. Trained to steal and return to his master, Pistol is introduced into the homes of the wealthy by Tim's connivance, Tim having pretended to be so downcast that people have taken pity on him and bought his pet. Caught, Tim is tried and given a light sentence (deportation) when a diamond ring is declared of little value; he then sees his monkey happy for the first time; "Its wish had been granted, its dream come true. . . . At last, at long last, it was on its way to its warm and comfortable home." The book is too slight for the reader old enough to comprehend it; it is strong only in the distinctive style of writing and Garfield's usual convincing evocation of the period.

Grabianski, Janusz, illus. Androcles and the Lion; illus. by Janusz Grabianski. Watts, 1970. 32p. Trade ed. $4.95; Library ed. $3.30 net.

M K-3 Despite the handsome illustrations, this is a weaker version of the Androcles legend than the Galdone adaptation reviewed above. The story begins slowly with a description of the birth of a lion cub, his growth, and his mating. Then the lion, thorn in paw, meets an African shepherd (Androcles) who helps him; later, both captured, they meet again in the Roman arena, Christian and lion. After the happy reunion, they sail back to Africa, freed. The story ends, "The return journey was long but this time Lion was not alone. And at the end of the journey were the wide,

free desert lands of home." Lovely to look at, less lovely to read.

Grigson, Geoffrey. Shapes and People; A Book about Pictures. Vanguard, 1969. 72p. illus. $6.95.

Ad 6-9 A continuous text, profusely illustrated with reproductions in color and in black and white, is written in rambling, informal style, its comments on artists and their work often interpretative as well as descriptive. The author's thesis is that there should be no rigid demarcations in art, that all art is a combination of lines, shapes, and colors that are original and that set each other off. He uses widely different paintings, therefore, to illustrate his commentaries on the people in paintings and on the painters themselves. Often interesting, but diffuse and occasionally irrelevant. A list of "the pictures, the artists, and the quotations" precedes the text and includes the locations of works of art.

Hamilton-Paterson, James. The House in the Waves. S. G. Phillips, 1970. 157p. $4.95.

Ad 7-9 Martin, fourteen, has spent much of his life in an institution. Withdrawn and often out of touch with reality, the boy is sent to a new hospital for disturbed children. He goes back in time to have a long, dramatic adventure that turns out to have been induced by narcosis and that provides him, when he wakes, with the first evidences of confidence and security. Well written, the book is weakened by the fact that the dream sequence (and its rapid therapeutic effect) is too long to be assimilated into the rest of the story; it overbalances and throws the realistic matrix out of proportion. As a study of a psychotic personality, however, it is sympathetic and convincing.

Hirshberg, Al. The Greatest American Leaguers. Putnam, 1970. 223p. $3.64.

R 6-9 The author chooses twenty players (at least two for each position) for his own roster of all-time stars. The sketch of each is brief, with considerable variation in the coverage: some have a good bit of biographical material, others concentrate on career highlights. This is one of the best of the many books of the type, written with zest and authority and sprinkled with anecdotes; the style is vigorous but avoids the clichés of journalese.

Holl, Adelaide. The ABC of Cars, Trucks, and Machines; illus. by William Dugan. American Heritage, 1970. 45p. $3.95.

Ad 3-5 yrs Since most children are intrigued by vehicles and large machines, an alphabet book that includes them, and has animal characters, and the appeal of a rhyming text should succeed. The weakness of the book is that many times it uses operative words other than the vehicle: "Queen's car" for the letter "q"; "Y is for Yuletide" turns out to be Santa's float in a parade; "O" pictures an old-fashioned car; repeatedly, trucks are used: bakery truck, dump truck, grocery truck, garbage truck, ice cream truck, and so on. The drawings are precise in detail, occasionally contradicting the text.

Holland, Isabelle. Amanda's Choice. Lippincott, 1970. 152p. $3.95.

Like the author's Cecily, this is a book with a young protagonist

R 7-9 (Amanda is twelve) but sensitive and sophisticated enough to appeal to older readers. Amanda is an enfante terrible whose hostility, temper tantrums, and bitter obduracy have antagonized all those she meets. Her mother is dead, her father seldom home and all too clearly, it seems to Amanda, glad to be rid of her. She is at the family's summer home in the care of a bewildered governess when Manuel appears. A nineteen-year-old musical prodigy from a New York slum, he has been given the use of a guest cottage. Manuel is just as tough and just as hostile as Amanda, and she feels that he is the first person who can understand her. He does; and he will take no nonsense from her. The child is distraught when he leaves, having begun to feel a deep affection; she trails him to New York with only the slightest of clues as to his whereabouts. The ending is not as sharply etched as the rest of the book, but the whole is impressive. Memorable characterization, good style, and a note of poignancy in the harsh reality of the situation that is reminiscent of the tender loyalty of Tiger Bay.

Holland, Ruth. Mill Child; The Story of Child Labor in America. Crowell-Collier, 1970. 138p. illus. $4.50.

R 6-10 In the mills and mines and sweatshops of America, the children of the poor—particularly those of immigrant families—worked long hours for little pay under the most deplorable conditions. The facts were glossed over, hidden, or minimized by those who profited from cheap child labor, but some of the journalists and social reformers persisted, finally achieving legislation that ended the shocking status of the child worker. Background information about cottage industry and the industrial revolution makes the evolution of this evil understandable; the text concludes with a discussion of the still-deplorable plight of the children of migrant workers. No sources are given, but the evidence of research is clear; photographs are informative; the writing style is direct and serious; an index is appended.

Horvath, Betty. The Cheerful Quiet; illus. by Jo Ann Stover. Watts, 1969. 37p. $3.95.

Ad K-2 Not very substantial, but pleasant and realistic, amusingly illustrated, and permeated with the casual camaraderie of a large, happy family. When Patrick complained to his mother about their noisy household (seven children and assorted animals) his mother said it was cheerful noise. But what Patrick wanted was cheerful quiet. He built a tree house, but it became popular—and noisy. He tried the attic—no success. Finally he had a brilliant idea: he went to bed early and rose the next morning before anyone was stirring. At last! A cheerful quiet.

Hughes, Langston. Don't You Turn Back; Poems by Langston Hughes; comp. by Lee Bennett Hopkins; woodcuts by Ann Grifalconi. Knopf, 1969. 79p. $3.95.

R 5- Handsomely illustrated with woodcuts in black, red, and white, a good collection of poems by Hughes, many of them written early in his career. The poems are grouped in four sections: "My People," "Prayers and Dreams," "Out to Sea," and "I Am a Negro." Direct and succinct, the poems have a sensitive and elemental simplicity that have made them

particularly popular with the black children with whom Lee Hopkins has worked.

Humphrey, Henry. What Is It For? Simon and Schuster, 1969. 48p. illus. $4.50.

R 3-4 Although the oversize pages and the iteration of the title question make the book seem more appropriate for very young children than for independent readers, the subjects and the way they are treated are eminently suited to primary grades readers. The large photographs show a series of objects (not necessarily but commonly urban) that may be familiar but unexplained sights: a ventilator, a manhole cover, a watchman's key station, et cetera. Interesting and unusual material is presented in a text with brisk, not-too-long descriptions. Can be read aloud to younger children.

Hunt, Irene. No Promises in the Wind. Follett. 1970. 249p. Trade ed. $4.95; Library ed. $4.98 net.

Ad 6-9 A story of the Depression Era, the protagonist a boy of fifteen who leaves home because of the antagonism between him and his father. Josh Grondowski loved his frail younger brother Joey, yet he was jealous of the attention he received and reluctant to take the child along when he left home. But Joey pleaded, and the two set off with a friend who was killed jumping a freight train. The boys were picked up by a man who got Josh a carnival job, the carnival folded, the boys hit the road again, they quarreled and Joey went off, Josh found their friend of the road, the boys were reunited, Josh got a girl and a job, and he decided to go back home. The book is strong in style, in its relationships, and in the perception with which the author invests Josh, who learns from his own relationship with Joey how it is possible for one depressed and worried to lash out at a loved person. It is weak in plot and construction: the carnival episode is long and seems out of balance; the character of the friend-in-distress is not quite convincing; the several episodes on the road seem isolated by the absence of other such wandering boys, a marked phenomenon of the period.

Hunter, Mollie. The Lothian Run. Funk and Wagnalls, 1970. 212p. $5.95.

R 7-10 Although the small, close print is a disadvantage, The Lothian Run is an eminently readable book for those who like verisimility in historical background combined with derring-do adventure. Suspense and action abound in a story of spies and smugglers set in Scotland in the early part of the eighteenth century. A young lawyer's clerk, Sandy Maxwell, enthusiastically joins a suave and sophisticated agent of His Majesty's Customs Service hunting down the smuggler, a reprobate also being pursued by a mysterious, sinister man known only as "The Colonel." Mollie Hunter is one of the few writers who can make all this sturm und drang believable, in part due to the felicity of her writing style, so appropriate to the period and in part due to the historical authenticity of the background.

Hurd, Edith (Thacher). Catfish; illus. by Clement Hurd. Viking, 1970. 59p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.37 net.

Children who enjoy stories about vehicles should warm to Catfish, and he has the added charm of wrecking his current possession and get-

R 4-7 yrs ting a new one for Christmas, each time graduating to a more sophisticated form of wheels, until he dreams of a car. Every official in town knows the speeding Catfish and disapproves; he is refused a bank loan. But when he jumps into the bank president's car to retrieve the bags of money that have just been stolen, Catfish earns the president's gratitude, a promise of a gift car, and the sudden amity of all his foes. The illustrations are simple, vigorous, and amusing; the story is nonsensical but satisfying, with a few pokes at officialdom.

Jackson, Robert B. The Steam Cars of the Stanley Twins. Walck, 1969. 59p. illus. $3.75.

R 5-9 Automobile history told with enough verve to engage the general reader, in a book that should enthrall the vintage car buff. First the Stanley twins themselves: identically idealistic and independent, looking like the Smith brothers. Second, the amazing success of their product: quiet, fast, its only drawback the noisy starting process. The story of the financial and mechanical triumphs of the Stanleys is not at all dimmed by the fact that gasoline engines forced the steam cars out of competition, especially since the latter are being thought of again in a time when gasoline engines contribute so heavily to pollution.

Jacobs, Lou. Jumbo Jets. Bobbs-Merrill, 1969. 66p. illus. $5.95.

R 5-9 Competent coverage of a topic of great current interest is made more useful by photographs, drawings, and charts—particularly the charts that compare various types of jumbo jets that are on the drawing boards or in the air. The author gives some history of jet flight, describes in some detail the planning, testing, assemblage, and components of the jumbo jets, and discusses the problems of noise control, safety, airport accommodations, etc. A glossary and an index are appended.

Jenness, Aylette. Dwellers of the Tundra; Life in an Alaskan Eskimo Village; with photographs by Jonathan Jenness. Crowell-Collier, 1970. 117p. $5.95.

R 6-10 Writing in an easy, straightforward and serious style, the author (who also based Gussak Boy, reviewed in the December, 1968 issue, on a year spent in an Eskimo village with her husband, an anthropologist) describes the impact of white culture on the residents, pointing out that there is dissatisfaction and a feeling of personal demotion among the young. The vivid and objective picture of living patterns is given immediacy and strength by a number of brief accounts of individual households as well as by the careful descriptions of food-hunting, recreation, tundra ecology, and the village school. The approach is candid and mature, the material fascinating.

Kay, Eleanor. The Operating Room. Watts, 1970. 62p. illus. Trade ed. $3.25; Library ed. $2.17 net.

R 4-6 Well-organized and written in a concise and competent style, a book that describes the techniques, the tools, the procedures and the purposes of the operative sequence: preparation, the operation itself, and post-operative care. The author also describes the purposes of laboratory tests, hygienic precautions, etc. and introduces the hospital staff mem-

bers the patient will meet. A useful and informative book; a list of some terms used in the operating room and an index are appended.

Kohn, Bernice. The Beachcomber's Book; illus. by Arabelle Wheatley. Viking, 1970. 96p. Trade ed. $3.75; Library ed. $3.56 net.

R 4-7 Profusely illustrated with precise drawings, useful for identification or for understanding directions given in the text, this is a how-to-do-it book with charm. The writing is light and competent, the projects varied, and the instructions clear. The book includes advice on shell-collecting, a home aquarium, collecting and cooking food, drying flowers, and making objects out of sand, driftwood, pebbles, shells, animal skeletons, et cetera. There are several projects for which adult assistance is suggested, but most of them are fairly simple; some supplies are needed, but these tend to be easily obtainable and not expensive. An index and a short bibliography follow several pages of pictures of shells.

Lacy, Leslie Alexander. Black Africa on the Move. Watts, 1969. 63p. illus. $2.95.

Ad 5-6 A superficial but broad review of African regeneration after a quick backward look at the dissolution of the early empires and the advent of slavery and colonialism. The author discusses the problems of the newly independent countries of Africa south of the Sahara, the need for educational and economic progress, the multiplicity of languages, et cetera. The coverage is skimpy (half a dozen pages on African culture) but the book gives an adequate overview of changes and progress. The photographs are interesting but often uninformative; the writing style is pedestrian, the material useful. An index is appended.

Larson, Jean Russell. Jack Tar; illus. by Mercer Mayer. Macrae, 1970. 76p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.79 net.

Ad 5-6 A poke at both the Victorian period and the super-adventure story gets off in high style as the hero, Jack Tar, loyal subject of Her Majesty and the most wholesome sailor in the Royal Navy, begins his career. It lasts almost all of one voyage, when he is cashiered in disgrace for having put epsom salts into the captain's tea instead of sugar. The rest of the story wilts a bit through over-exertion, as Jack careens about India trying to catch the villain who has stolen the priceless necklace of rare black pearls that was to have been presented to the queen. The characters are caricatures and the dialogue fraught with throbbing drama. Amusing, but too crowded with relentless predicaments and escapes. The illustrations have a rakish charm.

Latham, Frank B. The Rise and Fall of "Jim Crow," 1865-1964; The Negro's Long Struggle to Win "the Equal Protection of the Laws." Watts, 1969. 72p. illus. $2.95.

Ad 6-9 When, near the end of the nineteenth century, the Supreme Court upheld the Louisiana decision that white and black people be given separate but equal accommodations on railroads, Justice Harlan dissented, suggesting that time would prove the decision as pernicious as that of the Dred Scott case. This is a recapitulation, briefly, of the achievement of freedom and, at greater length, of the measure by measure encroach-

ment on that freedom after the Civil War. The book discusses Andrew Johnson's leniency toward white southern views (to the distress of Radical Republicans), the Black Codes and the reconstruction government, the Ku Klux Klan, the establishment of literacy tests for voting, and the increase in segregation. There is a rather superficial account of the decisions of 1954 and 1964, but the book as a whole is solid and capably, if sedately, written. Nothing new, but the book should be useful. An index is appended.

Lexau, Joan M. Benjie on His Own; illus. by Don Bolognese. Dial, 1970. 34p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.69 net.

R
K-3

After many years, a sequel to Benjie, in which a small Harlem boy, living alone with his grandmother, gets over being painfully shy. Benjie is in school now, and convinced that Granny doesn't need to pick him up —but he's quite worried when she doesn't appear. He finds his way home, but he also finds that the streets are not quite a safe place. Granny is not well, just as Benjie has feared, and he manages to call an ambulance and get the help of some of the neighbors. The story gives a good picture of the isolation of many urban neighborhoods, and of the poverty of the Harlem ghetto. Written with colloquial flow, the text and the illustrations have a sympathetic acceptance of the toughness and the kindness that can exist side by side in a community.

Lifton, Betty Jean. Return to Hiroshima; photographs by Eikoh Hosoe. Atheneum, 1970. 91p. Trade ed. $5.95; Library ed. $5.69 net.

R
5-12

"Ask of the city—What of the old, have they forgotten? What of the young, do they remember? What of the wounded, have they healed?" These somber questions are answered in a text that is matter-of-fact in approach, serious in tone, objective in assessing the enduring ramifications of the bombing of Hiroshima. The photographs are excellent, showing the crowded streets of a flourishing metropolis in contrast to scenes of ruins; most of the pictures are of survivors as they look and live today, or of ceremonies and memorials that show that the younger generation has not forgotten.

Lindgren, Astrid (Ericsson). Seacrow Island; tr. by Evelyn Ramsden; illus. by Robert Hales. Viking, 1969. 287p. $5.95.

Ad
5-7

First published in Sweden under the title Vi På Saltkråkan. Malin, nineteen, had been the rock and mainstay of the Melkerson household since her mother's death, dealing firmly with her irresponsible father as well as the three younger children. Apprehensive about the summer cottage that father had rented sight unseen, Malin succumbed as quickly as did the youngsters to the charm of the island. The day-to-day adventures of the Swedish family are enlivened by their encounters with some delightful local residents—particularly two sturdy, lively little girls. Some of the episodes are about animals, some about Malin's suitors, and the sustaining theme is the family's love of the island and their acquisition of the cottage they have come to love. The style is vigorous, the characterization and dialogue good; the book may be rather difficult for the reader most likely to enjoy the material—but it can be read aloud to third and fourth graders.

McGlashan, Agnes M. Sigmund Freud; Founder of Psychoanalysis; by Agnes M. McGlashan and Christopher J. Reeve. Praeger, 1970. 148p. $4.95.

Ad 9-12 A biography that concentrates on Freud's adult years, his professional development and formulation of theories of psychoanalysis, his writings, and his relationships with others in the psychiatric discipline. The writing is authoritative and competent but rather dry, less readable than the biography by Stoutenburg and Baker (Scribner, 1965) but emphasizing the theoretical and historical aspects of the development of psychoanalysis as a therapeutic tool in investigation of the human psyche. The chronology is brief; a list of suggestions for further reading and an index are appended.

Mackay, David, comp. A Flock of Words; An Anthology of Poetry for Children and Others; compiled, introduced and annotated by David Mackay; illus. by Margery Gill. Harcourt, 1970. 328p. $5.95.

R 6- A splendid anthology, not representative but highly personal in choice, and based on children's reactions in an English school classroom. The poems are loosely arranged in semi-chronological order, with some suggestion of subject clustering; the general effect, however, is of a flow of poems—as though Mr. Mackay had said, "Oh yes, that reminds me of another. . . ." The poems cover a range of time and sources; a section of notes is followed by author, title, and first-line indexes.

Malone, Mary. Actor in Exile; The Life of Ira Aldridge; illus. by Eros Keith. Crowell-Collier, 1969. 88p. $3.95.

Ad 4-6 Knowing that he had, as a Negro, little chance of gaining any place in American theater, Ira Aldridge left at the age of seventeen to seek a career in England in 1824. But there was prejudice in England, too; much as he was loved by the public, Aldridge was for many years a victim of critical bias. Not until he had become famous on the Continent—accepted in Germany as the Shakespearian authority, feted in Sweden, revered in Russia—did Aldridge succeed in playing in London's West End and being accepted there as a great tragedian. His English wife feared the treatment they might receive in the United States, so Aldridge was never known in his own country as he was known and revered abroad. A fascinating milieu, an impressive man, and a dramatic story; only the writing style is weak, fairly plodding and occasionally repetitious.

Matsutani, Miyoko. The Witch's Magic Cloth; English version by Alvin Tresselt; illus. by Yasuo Segawa. Parents' Magazine, 1969. 31p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.21 net.

Ad K-2 A read-aloud story in the fairy tale genre, the illustrations sometimes overly busy with detail but more often composed with restrained vigor. They echo the setting—Japan of long ago—and have a note of humor missing from the writing. The style is competent but the plot is weak. Frightened by a thunderous voice from the mountain, the villagers agree to send some rice cakes to the Witch of the Mountain, who has just had a son. Two trembling men are delegated, but they fall by the wayside; only the third envoy, an old woman, has the courage to go on. Pleased with her, the witch asks the old woman to stay on for three weeks, then gives her a roll of magic, inexhaustible cloth and a wish for good health for the villagers. The old woman goes home, and everybody lives happily ever after. The

ending is rather flat, but the setting and the illustrations give the book appeal.

Mitchison, Naomi. African Heroes; illus. by William Stobbs. Farrar, 1969. 205p. $3.95.

R 7- Polished writing, the fluent and articulate prose of a storyteller whose historical and legendary material is based on an oral tradition, distinguishes eleven tales of great Africans. The settings are south of the Sahara, the time spans six centuries, 1300-1900. Facing maps show Africa today and the sites of the stories. Each account is followed by a brief explanatory note. There is much history in the book, particularly colonial exploitation from the African viewpoint, but the interest and importance of the historical material is put in shadow by the richness and dignity of the people and their intricate, deep-rooted traditions.

Morgan, Edmund S. So What About History? Atheneum, 1969. 95p. Trade ed. $4.95; Library ed. $4.43 net.

R 4-6 Lively style and fresh perspective make this stimulating and unorthodox approach to history (it is not a history book) provocative, despite the fact that the text occasionally strays to tangential matters. The book stresses the significance of historical interpretation of material objects, from discarded junk to imposing government buildings, as evidence of living patterns and, in the United States, of adaptations from older societies to the new. History, the author points out, is the story of change: change in dress, in buildings, in ideas, and in institutions. To understand one's place in history is easier, he says, if one can "take the cover off the past and see what Americans have been."

Ney, John. Ox; The Story of a Kid at the Top. Little, 1970. 140p. $4.95.

M 5-7 A first-person account of a twelve-year-old boy's week of trailing around the country with a dilettante father and his hard-drinking companions. Rich, fat, and unhappy, Ox goes along when his father decides they will hire a helicopter and go somewhere to see a cow so that Ox can write a school paper. Then father, quixotic but uncharming, decides to fly to California . . . to Mexico . . . and home. Mother, who drinks just as much, has noticed they've been gone a week, but the only person who seems to care is Ox's teacher. He's in fourth grade. There are some interesting characters who crop up, but most of the adults are irresponsible if not venal, and the few juvenile characters are also products of unhappy families. The style is good, but it never varies from fortissimo, and the theme of the poor-little-rich-boy is an interesting one but so overdrawn that it loses impact.

Nickel, Helmut. Warriors and Worthies; Arms and Armor through the Ages; color photographs by Bruce Pendleton; black and white photographs courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Atheneum, 1969. 122p. Trade ed. $10; Library ed. $9.48 net.

R 6- A superb history of arms and armor, the illustrations from the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, of which the author is curator of arms and armor. The book begins with the arms of Egypt and Sumeria, includes Asian and Pre-Columbia military equipment, gives particularly detailed attention to developments in the 11th-16th centuries,

and traces the development of swords and firearms, concluding with the weapons of the frontier in 19th century America. Although reference use is limited by the lack of table of contents or index, the book is useful as well as handsome, since historical background is given for many of the facts, and a glossary, labeled pictures of Gothic and Renaissance armor, and a listing of figures of speech derived from chivalric times or from ancient firearms are appended.

Nicole, Christopher. Operation Manhunt. Holt, 1970. 225p. Trade ed. $4.50; Library ed. $3.97 net.

Ad 7-10

Jonathan Anders, the neophyte spy of Operation Destruct (reviewed in the June 1969 issue) is off on another mission, this time to the West Indies to rescue a Polish general who, it is suspected, is on a mysterious yacht. There is the usual amount of coup and counter-coup, fire at sea, a girl, the emergence of one of the most respectable characters of the book as the arch-plotter, and a surprise ending. The writing style is good, as is the characterization (not deep but sharp) save for one stereotyped fussy woman who coos at her dog; the plot is stretched, however, and the book lacks the humor of its predecessor to balance the excesses of the action.

Patton, Willoughby. Manuel's Discovery; A Story of Bermuda; illus. by William Hutchinson. McKay, 1970. 118p. $2.95.

Ad 4-6

An unusual setting, a theme with wide ramifications, and some Portuguese history are the foundation for a contemporary story that is vitiated by obtrusive interpolation of information in the guise of conversation. Manuel, a thirteen-year-old Bermudian of Portuguese background, is ashamed of being different, aware that the Portuguese are not fully accepted in Bermuda. His grandfather discovers this and is deeply wounded; he decides to go back to his old home in the Azores. Manuel goes along as escort and discovers, while visiting there, how rich and proud a history the Portuguese have. His viewpoint changed, he returns to Bermuda with a new confidence that he can achieve his goal (director of the Department of Agriculture) and a new determination to get the education that will enable him to achieve it. The story ends with Manuel's sacrifice of a crop of Easter lilies to decorate the Portuguese Society's float in the Easter Parade—and getting first prize. Typical of the over-emphisis of the book is the fact that Manuel also gives up an opportunity to sell his flowers at inflated prices in answer to a radio S.O.S. from the Chamber of Commerce. Despite the weaknesses, the book is strong in its reflection of a common problem in ethnic groups that have not been assimilated, and it ends on a positive note: having accepted himself as Portuguese, Manuel finds that he has never felt "more fully Bermudian."

Peet, William Bartlett. Fly Homer Fly; written and illus. by William Bartlett Peet. Houghton, 1969. 69p. $4.50.

R K-3

Bored by the simplicity and solitude of country life, Homer is easily beguiled by a city sparrow into flying to Mammoth City. But a pigeon's lot is not an easy one when he is at the bottom of the pecking order; Homer is chivvied by the tougher pigeons of the park, he finds it hard to fly in traffic (all those power lines and telephone wires) and he is stunned and injured when a huge steel ball swings right at the abandoned building

on which he's perched. His sparrow friends organize a flying team to carry a wire coathanger to which Homer clings as they convoy him back to the country. The illustrations burst with color and humor, the story has a punch behind its light facade.

Polatnick, Florence T. Shapers of Africa; by Florence T. Polatnick and Alberta L. Saletan. Messner, 1969. 184p. illus. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.34 net.

M 7-10

Portraits of five African leaders, from the great emperor Mansa Musa (whose ancestor, Sundiata, is described in the Mitchison book reviewed above) to the assassinated Mboya. The title may mislead: there are only five biographees; the other three are Queen Nzinga of Angola, Samuel Ajayi Crowther, the Nigerian bishop, and Moshoeshoe of Lesotho. More fictionalized than is consistent with authoritative history, often floridly written, and printed in very small type. Indexing is separate for each of the five sections.

Preston, Edna Mitchell. The Boy Who Could Make Things; illus. by Leonard Kessler. Viking, 1970. 44p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.37 net.

R 4-7 yrs

A quiet book about role-projection in a small boy's imaginative play, effective despite the burden of message because of the restraint and simplicity of the writing, and because of the universality of theme. With his paper, scissors, and crayons the boy made a family (father, mother, boy, girl) and a house. He told his paper family what to do, and they never obeyed him: the parents slept while the children got their own breakfast; the children grew naughtier and naughtier, and the boy had to spank them all—until he became sorry for them. Then he drew a red heart on each one, so that they could live happily ever after.

Provensen, Alice. Who's in the Egg? written and illus. by Alice and Martin Provensen. Golden Press, 1970. 31p. $2.95.

NR 4-6 yrs

Big, big pages afford the Provensens a splendid opportunity to fill space with color and movement, so that the book has visual appeal and can be used (with the loss of detail on some pages) with a group to advantage. The text, however, has several flaws that weaken the book considerably. Some of the animals are shown in their natural habitat (wasps in a nest) and some in artificial surroundings (ants in an exhibit case, on the page with the wasps' nest). Most of the animals are correctly named including extinct species, but "Dead old Steg-o-DINE-o-saurs, Gee-o-Gorgo-BRONT-o-saurs . . ." is followed by "Sad and sorry, Saurus. Al-lo-SAUR-us!" Various children romp through the pages noting different kinds of eggs. Sometimes the children speak, sometimes the creatures do, sometimes the text is impersonal; this can be very confusing, especially when there is no clear line of demarcation: "What kind of eggs are they? Who put them there? Hummingbirds! We laid them there. Don't frighten us away." The book ends with chicks popping out of a basketful of eggs carried by a child. The idea that there are all kinds of eggs beginning life has been presented more forcefully and more interestingly in quite a few books.

Reit, Seymour. Dear Uncle Carlos . . .; with photographs by Sheldon Brody. McGraw-Hill, 1969. 26p. (My World Series/ For Early Childhood) $3.83.

Full-page color photographs are faced by a simple text, in very large print, for beginning readers. "Guess what? Wanda is going to write a letter!" it begins, and goes on to describe Wanda's careful printing of a message, with a birthday wish in Spanish, under her parents' watchful eyes. Then father and Wanda go to the mailbox and post the letter that is going to Uncle Carlos in Puerto Rico. The pictures are attractive, the book useful; the writing has a bit too much "Guess what?" for a subject so simple. Although designed as a book for the independent reader, this can be read aloud to the preschool child as preparation for learning to read and write.

Ad
1-2

Rojankovsky, Feodor. F. Rojankovsky's ABC; An Alphabet of Many Things; written and illus. by Feodor Rojankovsky. Golden Press, 1970. 52p. $2.95.

An oversize book, each double-page spread giving an upper and a lower case letter, the rest of the two pages being devoted to approximately a dozen pictures illustrating the use of the letter. The pictures are colorful and varied, the pages rather crowded; there are many animals used, many familiar items (not drawn in comparable scale) and some choices that seem haphazard, such as "nun" and "nurse" in one set of pictures, but not other professions easily identifiable by uniform. Although the variety and gaiety of the book are appealing, some of the pictures (and their labels) may be confusing, such as the use of "uakari" for a monkey or "Xantus' murrelet" for a sea bird; less frequently the possibility of confusion is visual—for example, the picture of skis requires some sophistication in interpreting foreshortening.

M
2-5 yrs

Rosenberg, Sondra. Will There Never Be a Prince? illus. by Mircea Vasiliu. St. Martin's, 1970. 136p. $3.95.

As it must to all girls, adolescence comes to Carol Stein. With extra pounds, no boy friend, and a dear (but annoyingly thin) friend who gets the lead in My Fair Lady. Part of Carol's story is told in diary form, part in first-person narration; all of it is very funny, very real, and most perceptive. Carol tries hard to be suave, she imitates all her friends' feminine tricks, and she finally settles for being herself, a resignation made easier by some weight loss and a swain with a sense of humor. The characters are convincing, the dialogue amusing, the modest changes in Carol's self-regard believable and gradual.

R
6-9

Scott, Natalie. Firebrand; Push Your Hair Out of Your Eyes; illus. by Sandra Smith. Carolrhoda Books, 1969. 32p.

An oversize book with ornate illustrations in greeting card style. Firebrand is a little girl with beautiful long red hair which falls over her face. Her mother nags her, Firebrand fusses; her mother puts her hair up, Firebrand takes it down on the school bus every day. One day she climbs a tree and sees how much there is visible, since the wind is blowing her hair back. Instant reform follows. Wholly unconvincing, with poor familiar relations and a flat writing style.

NR
K-2

Zakhoder, Boris. Rosachok; A Russian Story; tr. by Marguerita Rudolph; illus. by Yaroslava. Lothrop, 1970. 29p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.78 net.

Nobody else can get quite the soft appeal that Garth Williams does,

Ad K-2 but there is a strong resemblance here. Rosachok is a young rabbit who is amazed when his friend the tadpole turns into a frog; his mother tells him that he will become different, too—a bigger rabbit, like his father. Rosachok consults various animals to see if he would prefer to become like them, but each has a flaw. Then he discovers that he himself, while all this was going on, has grown and changed so much that the frog didn't recognize him. The identity-quest that ends in being satisfied with one's lot is not unfamiliar in animal stories; here the style of writing is an asset. The plot has a weak spot: the rabbit really does not seem to change so much as to be unrecognizable, and the illustrations do not always match the text (a bird with "black feathers" is yellow in the illustrations). The conversations between Rosachok and other animals are direct and lively, much more varied than the usual patterned questioning in books with this theme.

Zindel, Paul. My Darling, My Hamburger. Harper, 1969. 168p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.79 net.

Ad 7-10 Liz and Sean were in love, they were popular, they had everything that Maggie and Dennis didn't; they had, in fact, arranged a date between the two. No stars sang. Maggie still felt awkward, even after Dennis had dutifully kissed her goodnight . . . and she had suggested going for a hamburger, because that had been the advice in sex education class: if the boy got out of control, you said it was time to go get a hamburger. Cautiously the two proceed toward a serious relationship, but for Liz and Sean a tragedy is brewing, spurred by the antagonism they feel at home. Liz becomes pregnant; Sean realizes that he will meet only cold hostility if he tells his father he wants to marry the girl he loves. And when he tells Liz that there will be no wedding, she has an abortion. Maggie, on the night of high school graduation, broods about the painful path to maturity. Honest and realistic in approach, with good dialogue and taut structure, the story lacks the impact of Zindel's previous book, partly because the characterization is less convincing; in The Pigman, there was an awful inevitability to the course of events, here the characters seem to move stiffly to adapt to a pattern.

Zolotow, Charlotte. The Hating Book; illus. by Ben Shecter. Harper, 1969. 32p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.92 net.

R K-2 Although this is a whit less smooth in style than most of the author's previous books, it has the same endearing quality of reflecting with fidelity the evanescent mood of a small child. The sprightly illustrations show a belligerent little girl who nurses her indignation with a catalog of her ex-friend's sins of commission. She had moved away on the school bus. ("I hated my friend.") She had turned away when everybody else applauded a basket in gym. ("Oh, I hated my friend.") Mother suggests, gently, that a talk might clear things up. Certainly not, says her child. But time passes (a whole afternoon) and there is a confrontation. It was all a mistake of the "They-said-you-said" variety, and diplomatic relations are immediately and enthusiastically re-established.

Reading for Teachers

To order any of the items listed here, please write directly to the publisher of the item, not to the BULLETIN of the Center for Children's Books.

Baratz, Joan C. and Shuy, Roger, ed. Teaching Black Children to Read. Center for Applied Linguistics, 1969. 220p. $5. 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

Brazell, Jo. "Streamlined Reading." The Reading Teacher, April, 1970.

Carriar, Shirley. "Teaching Reading Skills in the Junior High School." The English Journal, December, 1969.

Denby, Robert. "Literature by and about Negroes for the Elementary Level." Elementary English, November, 1969.

Downing, John. "How Children Think and Read." The Reading Teacher, December, 1969.

Groff, Patrick. "The Non-Structured Approach to Children's Literature." Elementary School Journal, March, 1970.

Henderson, Richard and Green, Donald. Reading for Meaning in the Elementary School. Prentice-Hall, 1969. paper. 126p. $2.50.

Jacobs, Leland. "Science Fiction for Children." Instructor Magazine, January, 1970.

Knapp, Edgar. "Reading Imaginative Literature." High School Journal, April, 1969.

Kinnamon, Keneth. "Afro-American Literature, the Black Revolution, and the Ghetto High Schools." English Journal, February, 1970.

LaConte, Christine. "Reading in the Kindergarten: Fact or Fantasy?" Elementary English, March, 1970.

Price, Robert and Spencer, Thelma. "Elementary Social Studies Textbooks and Their Relevance to the Negro Child." The Social Studies, April, 1970.

Strickland, Ruth. The Language Arts in the Elementary School. Heath, 1969. 502p. $7.95.

Waugh, Ruth. "The Case for Precision in Teaching Reading." Elementary School Journal, December, 1969.